

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 03909 181730Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3290
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 3909

EXDIS/SALT

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF WARNKE/SEменов PRIVATE MEETING,
MAY 16, 1977 (SALT TWO-1179)

1. IN A SHORT MEETING WITH SEMENOV, CALLED PRINCIPALLY TO OBTAIN HIS VIEW ON THE DESIRABILITY OF RECONSTITUTING THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP, I EXPLAINED MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MAINTAIN CONTACT BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS. I SAID THAT IN THE WORKING GROUP EACH SIDE WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS AND HOPEFULLY OBTAIN REPLIES THT WOULD PERMIT A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE OTHER SIDE'S POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE WE HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE CONCERN OF THE SOVIET SIDE ABOUT THE NON-TRANSFER AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION ISSUES, IN THE WORKING GROUP FURTHER CLARIFICATION MIGHT BE PROVIDED. THE SAME COULD ALSO BE SAID WITH REGARD TO OUR INTEREST IN DATA BASE. WE AGREED THT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS AT ALL LEVELS BECAUSE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED WAS SUCH AS TO HAMPER RESOLUTION AT PLENARY MEETINGS ALONE.

2. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF OUR CONVERSATION INCLUDED:

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PAGE 02 SALT T 03909 181730Z

MIRV VERIFICATION. IN COMMENTING ON HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT ON LINKAGE OF MIRV VERIFICATION AND A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE, SEMENOV SAID HE WANTED TO CLARIFY THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WAS NOT AGAINST DISCUSSING MIRV VERIFICATON AT THE LEVEL OF DELEGATIONS. MOREOVER, HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULATIONS FOR THE JDT.

NON-TRANSFER/NON-CIRCUMVENTION. I REMINDED SEMENOV THAT WE WOULD LISTEN TO WHAT IT WAS THE SOVIET SIDE HAD TO SAY IN REGARD TO NON-TRANSFER/NON-CIRCUMVENTION. THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY I THOUGHT THE WORKING GROUP COULD USEFULLY RESUME ITS FUNCTIONS. HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO THIS UISSUE, IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED ON THE SOVIET SIDE THAT WE MUST REVIEW IT WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES. WITH THESE ISSUES, I THOUGHT WE HAD A SITUATION VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE MIRV VERIFICATION ISSUE, IN THAT THERE WAS REALLY NO DIFFERENCE ON SUBSTANCE BETWEEN US, BUT RATHER A QUESTION OF FORM AND WORDING THAT WOULD SATISFY THE TWO SIDES. I REPEATED MY EARLIER STATEMENT TO HIM THT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF CIRCUMVENTING THE NEW AGREEMENT BY TRANSFERRING NUCLEAR ARMS TO THIRD COUNTRIES OR IN ANY OTHER WAY. IT WAS OUR OBJECTIVE TO CONTROL NUCLEAR ARMS, NOT TO SPREAD THEM MORE WIDELY THAN THEY WERE ALREADY SPREAD. WE WISHED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES, AND HAD NO INTENTION OF INCREASING THAT NUMBER.

DATA BASE. SEMENOV SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAD SET FORTH ITS VIEWS ON DATA BASE; HOWEVER, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD LISTEN TO U.S. CONSIDERATIONS WITH INTEREST, SO AS TO BE "ABLE THOROUGHLY TO REFLECT AND ANALYZE THEM." WARNKE

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